



# U. S. Representative Dave Weldon

## Securing America

*For Our Future Generations*

Summer 2002

**M**any individuals have asked me how they can help during a civil emergency. To learn more about the volunteer programs in your area, contact your Emergency Management Department listed below:

**BREVARD COUNTY:**  
Community Emergency Response Team  
(321) 637-6670

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY:**  
John King  
(772) 567-8000 ext. 1444

**OSCEOLA COUNTY:** Office of Emergency Management  
(407) 343-7000

**POLK COUNTY:**  
Tom Mason  
(863) 519-7300

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Friend,

In his State of the Union address in January, President George W. Bush called Americans to arms, to battle a new enemy that has declared war on innocent American civilians. In that speech, President Bush set forth a path for our nation focused on meeting our most immediate needs and the primary purpose of our federal government—protecting the American people from those who would cause us harm.

The President's budget calls for a significant increase in funding to restore our military and strengthen national defenses, both foreign and domestic. He has my full support. In fact, the U.S. House of Representatives has already approved a budget that meets his goals for this year and beyond.

For the first time in decades our nation faces a very real threat here at home, threats against innocent civilians. Time and again our nation has turned within and found the strength to defend those liberties we hold dear. In the 1940s we turned to that generation and asked them to defend liberty and freedom – the people rose to the occasion and defeated fascism. In the 1950s Americans again rose up to successfully confront the forces of totalitarianism in Korea. In the 1960s and early 1970s we defended liberty and freedom in Southeast Asia - and many answered the call. And, more recently, in Iraq and in Afghanistan, we have turned to our men and women of the Armed Forces and asked them to secure our shores and defend our interests abroad.

Now is the time for Congress to provide every tool necessary to assure success and to thwart any future attempts aimed at our freedoms and security. Congress has no higher call than that. This newsletter discusses some initiatives that we are taking to meet that responsibility. I hope you will find it informative.

May God bless America in our endeavor to secure democracy and freedom for generations to come. It is an honor to serve you in Congress.

Respectfully,

Dave Weldon, M.D.  
Member of Congress

### INFO:

For more information,  
visit my website at:

<http://www.house.gov/weldon>

# Weldon Cosponsors The National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act (H.R. 4660)

This bipartisan/bicameral legislation ensures that our homeland security efforts are given the highest priority. The bill:

1. Establishes a National Homeland Security Department, headed by a Senate-confirmed Cabinet Secretary, and consolidates responsibilities of FEMA, border security agencies (Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Customs, the law enforcement functions of INS, and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service), and critical infrastructure agencies.
2. Creates a Cabinet-Level National Office for Combating Terrorism, whose Director would take the lead responsibility for developing a comprehensive national homeland security strategy, creating a federal homeland security budget, and reviewing and adjusting department budgets to ensure compliance with the overall anti-terrorism strategy.



**Rep. Dave Weldon** commemorates the commissioning of a new coastal patrol boat — USCG Shrike — stationed at Port Canaveral.

## Representative Weldon's Army Medical Training Aids Development of Response to Bioterrorism

As a former Army physician with training in bioterrorism, Rep. Weldon knows the importance of preparedness and how critical it is that we be prepared to quickly recognize and respond to agents of bioterrorism. These actions include:

- Urging the federal government to ensure sufficient antibiotic supplies to respond to anthrax and other agents of terror;
- Leading the effort in the Congress to ensure that our nation's medical labs are able to quickly identify biological agents—saving lives and stopping the spread of disease; and
- Bringing to the attention of those leading our nation's counter-terrorist efforts, the need to develop stockpiles of immune globulin. While antibiotics are helpful in most instances, there is a need for immune globulin for those who may have compromised immune systems or who are already severely weakened by a biological agent.

## Enhancing Coastal Security

Post September 11, demands on those patrolling our coastal borders are significant. Over the past few years, our coastal areas have seen increased security to stop drug trafficking and illegal immigration. Now, the members of our Nation's Coast Guard are being called upon to defend against terrorist infiltration, attacks and contraband. Recognizing these new demands, the Congress approved a significant budget and personnel increase for the U.S. Coast Guard. The 28% increase in funding for the USCG will be used to hire additional personnel and to purchase new ships, aircraft, and equipment needed to secure our coastal borders and many of our nation's waterways.



# Rebuilding Our Intelligence Agencies

Many Americans have been asking how our intelligence agencies failed us so much in September. I have been among the Americans asking that same question.

The answer is very complex, but some things stand out as contributing to this failure.

I believe that one of the most serious mistakes was made in the mid-1990s, when it was decided by the Administration at that time, that our intelligence agencies would not pay informants from other countries that had unsavory pasts. This ill-conceived decision created serious intelligence gathering voids.

Additionally, during the trial of those who perpetrated the 1993 World Trade Center Bombing, Osama Bin Laden and other terrorists learned key information about our intelligence surveillance methods and they took countermeasures to avoid detection. We have been working aggressively to rebuild this intelligence network.

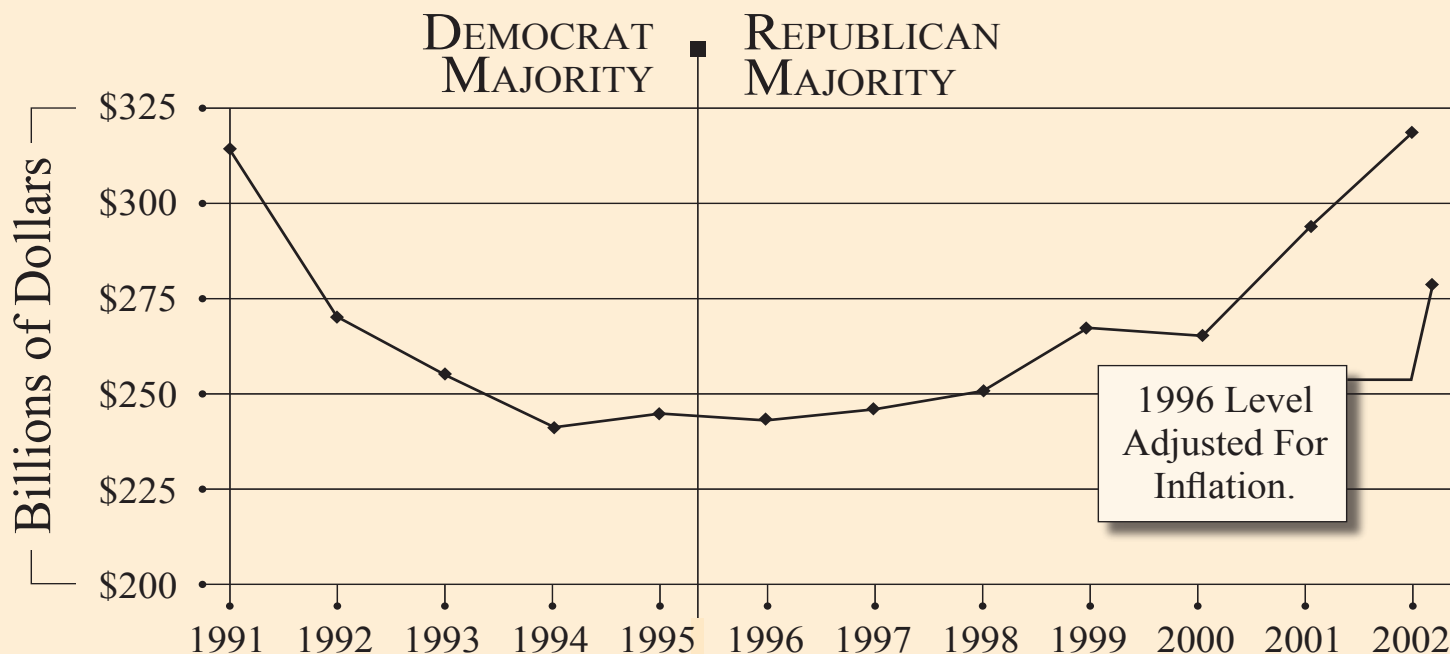
Additionally, we are now providing over \$3 billion to improve intelligence gathering and computer networking to provide better warnings of potential terrorist activities.

## Defense vs. Total Budget

Budget Year	Total Budget (\$ in trillions)	% of Budget for Defense
1989	\$1.14	26.5%
1990	\$1.25	23.9%
1991	\$1.32	20.6%
1992	\$1.38	21.6%
1993	\$1.41	20.7%
1994	\$1.46	19.3%
1995	\$1.52	17.9%
1996	\$1.56	17.0%
1997	\$1.60	16.9%
1998	\$1.65	16.2%
1999	\$1.70	16.2%
2000	\$1.79	16.5%
2001	\$1.86	16.6%
2002	\$2.05	17.0%
2003	\$2.13	17.8%

## DEFENSE BUDGET

*Budget Authority 1991-2002*





# Legislative Initiatives

## Rep. Dave Weldon's Legislative Efforts

- ★ **Protecting Senior's Health Care (H.R. 716)**—Rep. Weldon led the successful effort to defeat a regulation that would have weakened medical practice safety standards for seniors undergoing operations.
- ★ **Increasing Funding for Florida Veterans (H.R. 4852)**—Ensures that Florida veterans get a more equitable share of federal funding.
- ★ **Strengthening the U.S. Space Industry (H.R. 1931)**—Creates incentives for greater investment in U.S. space infrastructure to ensure continued U.S. supremacy in space research and launch initiatives.
- ★ **Stopping Terrorism (H.R. 3286/H.R. 4010)**—Imposes a temporary ban on those seeking to enter the US from countries that are known to house terrorists. The ban is lifted after known security procedures have been implemented.
- ★ **Helping Vaccine Injured Children (H.R. 1287/H.R. 3741)**—Fixing the compensation program to ensure that children who suffer severe injuries from mandatory childhood vaccines receive compensation to pay for their complex lifetime medical needs.
- ★ **Addressing the Autism Epidemic**—There is an epidemic of Autism among our young children. Autism now affects more than 500,000, yet the federal government spends far less money on autism prevention and effective treatments than on other diseases and disorders. Rep. Weldon is leading the fight to change this.
- ★ **Making Homeowners Insurance More Affordable (H.R. 4025)**—Establishes a program to help make homeowners' insurance more affordable for residents of Florida and other disaster prone areas.
- ★ **Permanent Repeal of the Death Tax (H.R. 2143)**—Makes the repeal of the death tax permanent.

## Stopping Terrorists At The Border

Rep. Dave Weldon introduced H.R. 4010, The Terrorist Admission Prevention (TAP) Act, on March 20, 2002. This bill places a moratorium on the issuance of visas to individuals from fifteen countries that are hosts of terror or state sponsors of terror. These countries include: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Syria, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Libya, and Cuba. This moratorium will remain in place until border security processes are fully implemented to help us better safeguard against terrorist who might otherwise enter the U.S. Those seeking to enter the U.S. from these countries must have a machine readable visa and passport which includes biometric data. This will give us the assurance that those entering and exiting the U.S. are indeed the one's who have been given such approval. Another critical provision ensures that immigration amnesty is not granted to anyone from the listed countries.

This bill builds on the success of legislation, H.R. 3286, Rep. Weldon introduced in the fall. Provisions, similar to those in H.R. 3286, were enacted into law as part of Congress' response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. H.R. 4010 builds on this success.

